[English]

Alleged Irregularities in Distribution of Steel to Traders by Delhi Sales Office

5093. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA;
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the top twenty consuming units who have been allotted steel items by the Branch Sales office of SAIL, New Delhi during the last two years, quarterly to each such units quantity-wise and item-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by SAIL, New Delhi for allotment of steel items to various consuming units/traders;

(c) whether any irregularities in distribution of steel have come to the notice of the Government during above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Business ethics do not permit SAIL to make public the details of the materials supplied to its customers, individually.

(b) SAIL, including its Delhi Branch Sales Office, supplies steel items to the different categories of customers in terms of the extant Distribution Guidelines of the Joint Plant Committee (JPC). Traders can lift such items of steel as are put under "Free Sale Notice" from time to time, at JPC/stockyard prices, in terms of the terms and conditions of such sales.

(c) and (d). Certain allegations of irregularities in the distribution of steel were received in the last two years and those allegations were inquired into from time to time. The Government have no evidence to hold that irregularities had been committed in the distribution of steel by BSO, SAIL, New Delhi, during the above period, in terms of the distribution guidelines of the JPC.

Opening of Electronic Telephone Exchange at Patan in Gujarat

5094. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install an electronic telephone exchange at Patan in Gujarat and also propose to provide STD facility there;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). A new Crossbar type telephone exchange (not electronic) of 3000 lines capacity is planned to be commissioned at Patan in 1992-93. STD facility is already available from Patan.

[Translation]

New Telephone Connections During 1992

5096. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of new telephone connections likely to be provided in the country during 1992, state-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): 7 lakh new telephone connections are planned to be provided during the financial year 1991-92. The

state-wise programme is given in the enclosed statement. The programme for remainder part of 1992 will be part of 1992-93 annual plan which has not yet been formulated.

Statement

Provision of new Telephone connections during 1991-92 state-wise

Sl. No.	*Name of State*	*New Telephone connections planned to be given during 1991-92*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37771
2.	Assam	16299
3.	Bihar	22747
4.	Gujarat including Daman & Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli	45323
5.	Haryana	17371
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8283
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	3987
8.	Karnataka	32309
9.	Kerala including Lakshdweep	40445
10.	Madhya Pradesh	59088
11.	Maharashtra including Goa	112221
12.	North East (Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura)	8679
13.	Orissa	9589
14.	Punjab including Chandigarh	25458
15.	Rajasthan	36797
16.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	34138
17.	Uttar Pradesh	68932

Sl. No.	*Name of State*	*New Telephone connections planned to be given during 1991-92*
18.	West Bengal including Sikkim State and Andaman & Nikobar Islands.	50725
19.	Delhi (U.T.)	70169
	Total	700331

[English]

Working of C-DOT

5097. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH;
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI;
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C-DOT is not realising its original objectives despite liberal rules to facilitate the time bound programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial action taken proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Realisation of original objectives of development of next generation of digital switching system and maximising usage of indigenous components is being achieved progressively by C-DOT. Following the philosophy of modular approach, C-DOT has successfully designed private automatic branch exchange, rural automatic exchange and main exchange upto capacity of 10,000 lines. C-DOT has established a competent R&D Organisation and contributed significantly towards productionisation of C-DOT designed equipment by a number of manufacturers in the country. There has been some delay in development of larger size main exchange.

(b) Design and development of modern digital switching system is a complex task and C-DOT had to start this activity from scratch as it was a newly established organisation. Time taken by C-DOT for development of digital switching system compares favourably with development of a similar product by other organisations.

(c) All efforts are being made to expedite the development programme. C-DOT has already reviewed the status of its projects and programme for their completion has been worked out.

Import of Telephone Exchanges and Instruments

5098. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange spent on im-